

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 NSCE-00 EB-04
TRSE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-01 SP-02
SSO-00 INRE-00 H-01 STRE-00 /044 W
-----098990 271619Z /64
O 271603Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2603
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 11577

LIMDIS

USMTN

USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR AMBASSADOR WOLFF FROM
AMBASSADOR MCDONALD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, MTN
SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY (CVD) WAIVER EXTENSION

REF: STATE 186719

1. FOR THE REASONS LISTED IN REFTTEL, THE ISSUE OF AN
EXTENSION OF THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY WAIVER POSES A
DIFFICULT DILEMMA FOR THE STR AND THE ADMINISTRATION.
CERTAINLY OUR STRONGEST NEGOTIATING POSTURE WOULD BE TO
HAVE A SIMPLE WAIVER EXTENSION AVAILABLE FOR USE BY THE
ADMINISTRATION AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT CONTIN-
GENT UPON THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION BY DECEMBER 15 OF AN
ACCEPTABLE TOKYO ROUND PACKAGE.

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2. REGRETTABLY, FROM A NEGOTIATING PERSPECTIVE, ALL OF
THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE WAIVER EXPIRING AND CVD BEING
IMPOSED IN JANUARY ARE NEGATIVE. THIS PROSPECT NORMALLY
ELICITS HOSTILE REACTIONS FROM OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS
RATHER THAN A DESIRE TO COOPERATE FOR A MAXIMUM RESULT.
IT ALSO CONCERNS NOT ONLY THE EC BUT, AMONG OTHERS, THE
NORDICS AND THE SWISS, ON WHOM WE COUNT FOR MODERATE

POSITIONS NORMALLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. AIMS IN THE TOKYO ROUND. WITHIN THE EC, UNFORTUNATELY, THE MEMBER STATES MOST FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE U.S. POSITION ARE THE ONES MOST HEAVILY HIT BY THE PENDING CASES (E.G., GERMANY, DENMARK, AND HOLLAND WITH CHEESE, CANNED HAMS, AND EVEN BUTTER COOKIES). IF THESE MEMBER STATES WAVER IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR A SIGNIFICANT TOKYO ROUND RESULT, THE EC DECISION BALANCE COULD CLEARLY SHIFT UNFAVORABLY TOWARD THE VIEWS OF THE MORE NEGATIVE MEMBER STATES.

3. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT OUR NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

A) AGRICULTURE - THE FRENCH ARE ALREADY ALARMED AT WHAT THEY VIEW AS EXCESSIVE CONCESSIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTIONS OF THE JULY 13 "FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING." WE NEED NO ADDITIONAL LIABILITIES IF WE ARE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY RESULTS HERE FOR GREATER SUBSIDY DISCIPLINE IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND IMPROVED ACCESS FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCTS.

B) IN THE SUBSIDIES CODE ITSELF, EC PRESSURE WILL INCREASE FOR SIMPLE U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH GATT RULES AND OUR NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR GREATER SUBSIDY DISCIPLINE MAY WELL BE REDUCED.

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C) THE OVERALL RESULTS COULD BE HELD HOSTAGE TO THE U.S. ACCEPTING FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL GATT REQUIREMENTS ON A FORMAL BASIS SINCE THIS IS THE CORE PROBLEM AS VIEWED BY OTHERS RATHER THAN THE EXPIRATION OF THE WAIVER.

4. FINALLY, THEIR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING THE EXPIRATION OF THE WAIVER SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND EVEN IF WE DIFFER WITH THEIR POINTS OF VIEW. IN GENERAL, THE EUROPEANS PARTICULARLY OBJECT TO ANY KIND OF ULTIMATUM RESPONSE PROCESS. THEY CONSIDER THE WAIVER EXPIRATION AT THIS TIME WHEN TOKYO ROUND NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEARING AN END AS REPRESENTING A DIRECT COERCIVE ACTION. TO RESIST IT MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL APPEAL HERE. SECONDLY, MOST NON-AMERICANS CONSIDER THE CRISIS TO BE UNILATERALLY GENERATED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS, WHO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO POSTPONE THE DISRUPTION OF CURRENT TRADE PATTERNS AT LEAST FOR THE FEW MONTHS NEEDED FOR A DISPASSIONATE REVIEW OF THE TOKYO ROUND RESULTS. IN THE VIEW OF THE MTN DELEGATION, ALTHOUGH THE DANGER OF THE DATE IS CLEARLY PERCEIVED BY OUR NEGOTIATING PARTNERS AND HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY AND EMPHATICALLY COMMUNICATED TO THEM NOW

OVER MANY MONTHS, IT HAS GIVEN US NO APPRECIABLE
NEGOTIATING ADVANTAGE. IT HAS NOT SERVED TO BRING THE
NEGOTIATIONS ALONG TO THEIR CURRENT STATE OF ADVANCEMENT
NOR HAS IT INFLUENCED THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF REINFORCING THE
RESENTMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES AT THE CONTINUING PROVI-
SIONAL APPLICATION OF THE GATT BY THE U.S. NOW FOR SOME
30 YEARS.

5. IN SUM, WE STRONGLY FAVOR THE SOLUTION DESCRIBED IN

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USMTN, USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR AMB WOLFF FROM AMB MCDONALD

PARA ONE IF THIS IS POLITICALLY DOABLE. MCDONALD

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